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09JUN03 EB13284-2/002896
P01/7700 0.00-0313157.0

Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

THE PATENT OFFICE
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NEWPORT

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
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1. Your reference

MRH.PO4830GB

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0313157.0

- 7 JUN 2003

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (*underline all surnames*)

Ronald Alexander (Scot) Young
95 Mushroom Green
Dudley Wood
West Midlands
DY2 0EE

Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

273005

8648909001

4. Title of the invention

A WARNING SIGN

5. Name of your agent (*if you have one*)

Marks & Clerk

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (*including the postcode*)

27 Imperial Square
Cheltenham
GL50 1RQ

Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)

18014

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (*if you know it*) the or each application number.

Country

Priority application number
(*if you know it*)

Date of filing
(*day / month / year*)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(*day / month / year*)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (*Answer 'Yes' if:*

No

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
 - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
- See note (d))

Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form

Description

5

Claim(s)

2

Abstract

1

Drawing(s)

2 + 2

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

1

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

M R Higgins

Date

Marks & Clerk

6th June 2003

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Mr M R Higgins
01242 524520

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DUPLICATE

A WARNING SIGN

This invention relates to a warning sign particularly but not exclusively for use on wet floors in public places.

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It is known from GB 2354625 to provide a two-part pivotable warning sign having a height-adjustable third part which is supportable by the pivotable two-parts. However, this arrangement requires that the warning sign has extra mouldings to enable support of the third part. This results in more complex tooling and thus increased costs.

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The present invention seeks to provide an improved warning sign.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a warning sign comprising first and second parts pivotably interconnected at their in use upper ends and pivotable between a first storage position in which the first and second parts are arranged in side-by-side relationship and a second operative position in which the first and second parts are at an angle to one another, detent means for releasably retaining the first and second parts in the second operative position, and a third part releasably supportable by the detent means.

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Preferred and/or optional features of the first aspect of the invention are set forth in claims 2 to 7, inclusive.

The invention will now be more particularly described by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing one embodiment of a warning sign
5 according to the invention, in an operative position,

Figure 2 is a fragmentary perspective view showing a hinge between first and second parts of the warning sign shown in Figure 1, and

10 Figure 3 is a fragmentary perspective view showing the upper part of the first and second parts of the warning sign in a storage position, and showing the location of a third part in phantom lines.

Referring to the drawings, there is shown therein a warning sign which, for
15 example, can be used to caution the general public in a public place that a potential hazard exists in the vicinity of the sign, such as a wet floor or maintenance work in a restaurant, hospital, railway station and such like. The warning sign comprises first and second parts 10 and 11 pivotably connected together by hinges 12 at the in use upper ends of the two parts 10 and 11 for movement between a first storage position in
20 which the two parts lie parallel in a side-by-side relationship (see Figure 3) and a second operative position in which the two parts are at an angle to one another (see Figure 1). Each part 10, 11 has feet 13 at its in use lower end so that when the parts 10 and 11 are in the second operative position, the feet will support the sign in an upright position as shown in Figure 1.

Each part 10 and 11 has a pressed portion 14, for receiving a caution sign, and a hand hole 15. The pressed portions 14 are preferably raised relative to the immediate portions of the parts 10,11 surrounding the pressed portions 14. However, the pressed portions 14 could be recessed. The pressed portion 14 promotes focussing of a viewer's eye on the caution sign.

As best seen in Figure 3, each part 10, 11 has a projection 16 at the upper end of its inner face above the hinges 12 that securely releasably engages an aperture or recess 17 (hereinafter simply referred to as 'aperture 17') in the other part 11, 10 when the two parts 10 and 11 are in the second operative position. The projections 16 are a snap or friction fit in corresponding apertures 17 to allow the two parts to be retained in the second operative position, thereby reducing a tendency for the sign to collapse and/or fall over when impacted.

As shown in Figures 1 and 3, the sign also comprises a third part 18. This third part 18 comprises a body portion 19 on which a caution sign can be displayed, in addition to, or as an alternative to, the recess 14. The body portion 19 is a planar or substantially planar element and the caution sign is typically displayed on both major surfaces. However, the body portion 19 could have a polyhedral or cylindrical form allowing the caution sign to be displayed to a greater field of view.

The third part 18 also comprises a support portion 20 adjacent to the bottom of the body portion 19. The support portion 20 includes two openings 22 dimensioned to be able to receive the projections 16. When the first and second parts 10 and 11 are in

the first storage position, i.e. when the projections 16 are released from engagement with the apertures 17, the support portion 20 of the third part 18 can be slid between the first and second parts 10 and 11 and the projections 16 can be inserted into and through the openings 22. The length of the projections 16 and the thickness of the support portion 20 are such that the projections 16 extend a sufficient distance beyond the support portion 20 to enable secure and releasable engagement with the apertures 17 when the first and second parts 10 and 11 are in the second operative position.

The openings 22 could simply be recesses formed in the bottom edge and/or the side edges of the support portion 20. In this case, the upper edges of the first and second parts 10 and 11 may be relied on to stabilise the third part 18. Thus, the upper edges of the first and second parts 10, 11 may grip or clamp the third part 18 when in the second operative position.

The warning sign could have only one projection 16 and corresponding aperture 17. This projection could be of non-cylindrical transverse cross section, enabling the third part when supported thereon to remain upright. In addition, or as an alternative, a supporting or seating lip or ledge could be provided on one or each first and second part 10, 11 and on which an edge of the third part 18 abuts when between the first and second parts 10, 11.

Typically, all parts are formed of plastics material with the third part 18 preferably being resiliently flexible in a direction parallel to the ground on which the warning sign is erected. Due to this flexibility and the secure support of the third part

18 through the openings 22 when in the operative position, stability of the warning sign is increased due to the realisation of a "pendulum" effect that allows reversal of momentum on impact of the third part 18, i.e. when a person accidentally knocks the caution sign with a shoulder bag, for example, thus resulting in little or no relative movement of the warning sign subsequent to impact.

The embodiments described above are given by way of example only and other modifications will be apparent to persons skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. A warning sign comprising first and second parts pivotably interconnected at their in use upper ends and pivotable between a first storage position in which the first and second parts are arranged in side-by-side relationship and a second operative position in which the first and second parts are at an angle to one another, detent means for releasably retaining the first and second parts in the second operative position, and a third part releasably supportable by the detent means.
2. A warning sign as claimed in claim 1, wherein the two parts have ground contacting foot portions at their in use lower ends, so that, with said foot portion or portions of one part spaced from said foot portion or portions of the other part, the sign will be self-supporting on the ground.
3. A warning sign as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the detent means comprises at least one projection and at least one corresponding aperture or recess, the projection being arranged to fit in the aperture or recess as a snap or friction fit when the first and second parts are in the second operative position.
4. A warning sign as claimed in claim 3, wherein the first and second parts each have one said projection which cooperates with one said corresponding aperture or recess formed in the other part.
5. A warning sign as claimed in claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the third part includes

a support portion having one or more openings dimensioned to receive a corresponding said projection therethrough.

5 6. A warning sign as claimed in claim 5, wherein the said projection can only be inserted into the corresponding opening of the third part when the first and second parts are in the first storage position.

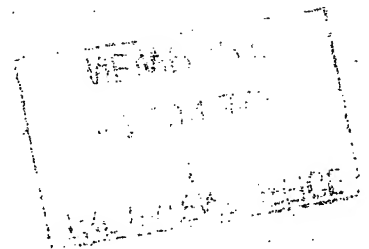
10 7. A warning sign as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6, wherein the said projection can only be removed from the corresponding opening of the third part when the detent means is released.

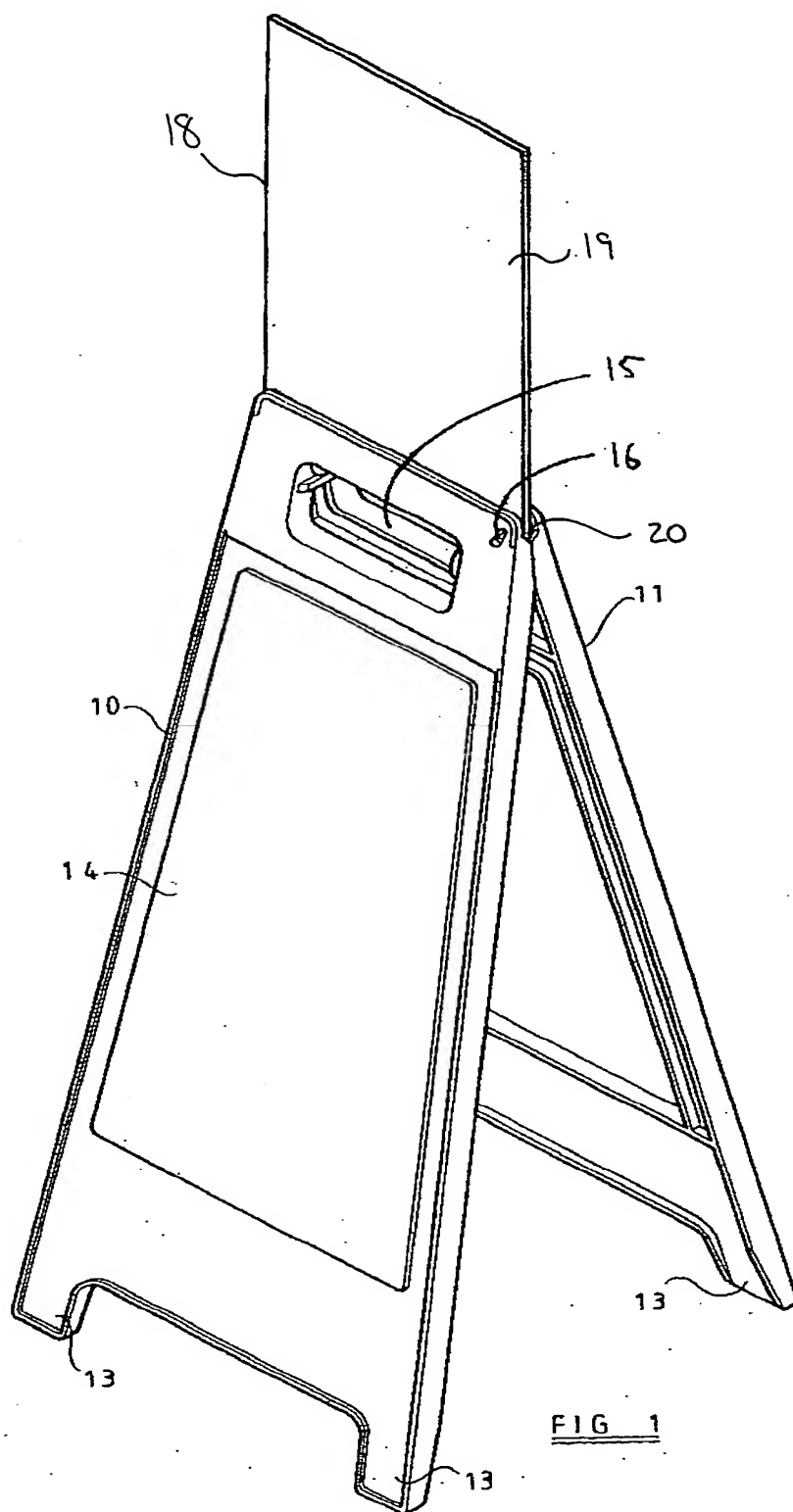
8. A warning sign substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

ABSTRACT

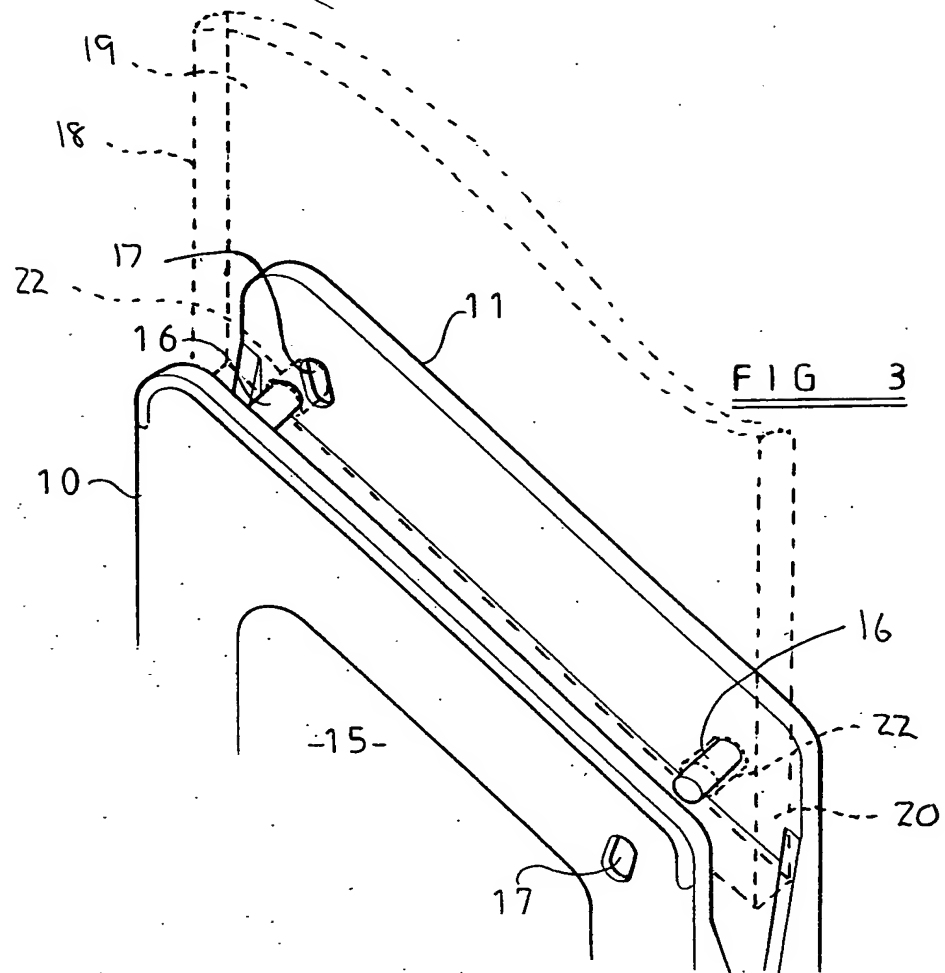
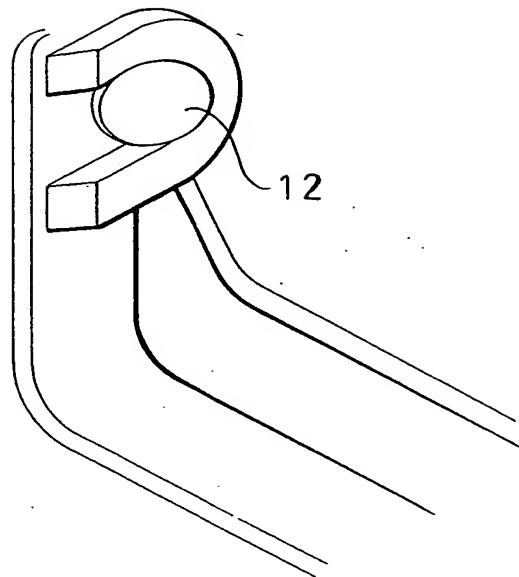
A warning sign comprises first and second parts 10,11 pivotably interconnected at their in use upper ends and pivotable between a first storage position in which the first and second parts are arranged in side-by-side relationship and a second operative position in which the first and second parts are at an angle to one another. Detent means 16,17 are also provided for releasably retaining the first and second parts 10,11 in the second operative position, and a third part 18 is provided which can be releasably supported by the detent means.

(Refer to Figure 1)





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